

providing a sealing cavity formed in the sheath device housing proximate to the second end portion; and

filling the sealing cavity with a self-sealing gel-like material adapted to permit the insertion and removal of the repair apparatus through the material while forming a seal around the repair apparatus.

REMARKS

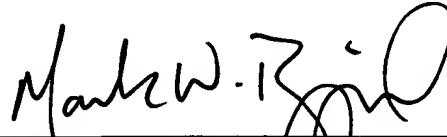
Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.53 (d) (1), Applicants file herewith a continuation application of U.S. Patent Appl. Ser. No. 09/108,189 as a continued prosecution application. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the time Examiner has taken regarding the '189 application, including the telephone interview on or about May 2, 2002. Although no agreement was reached with respect to the claims during the interview, Applicants request that the foregoing amendment be entered prior to examination of the present CPA application. Applicants have added new Claims directed to methods of repairing an aneurysm in a vessel and have cancelled several previously pending claims. Specifically, Claims 104-109, and 114-126 are now pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 110-113 are canceled without prejudice and new Claims 115-126 are added.

No additional fee is required for consideration of this Preliminary Amendment. If a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 03-2469.

Moreover, if the deposit account contains insufficient funds, the Commissioner is hereby invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to arrange payment.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Rygiel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Date: August 12, 2002

JOHN N. COULBY, REG. NO. 43,565
MARK W. RYGIEL, REG. NO. 45,871
COLLIER SHANNON SCOTT, PLLC
3050 K Street, N.W., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 342-8400